

Pro-lifers and civil disobedience



By Jill Stanek (Jill@illinoisleader.com)

The Bible teaches that Christians are to obey their governing authorities (Romans 13:1-4; Titus 3:1). But the United States government sanctions abortion.

What are Christians to do when a law established by humans directly contradicts a law established by God (Exodus 20:13)?

In that case, choosing to obey one directly results in choosing to disobey the other.

To that question, David responds, "Are wicked rulers who use the law to do unlawful things able to be your partners? They join forces to take the lives of righteous people. They condemn innocent people to death. But the Lord has become my stronghold. My God has become my rock of refuge" (Psalm 94:20-22).

Is it enough to wiggle around the abortion dilemma by saying, "I wouldn't personally choose to abort but cannot tell another person not to"?

By saying this a person admits s/he knows abortion is wrong but doesn't want to stand in the way of another getting one, because it is legal. If it were illegal, the government would stop it. So all that is keeping us from stopping abortion ourselves is the fact that it's legal.

Is that acceptable?

No, the Bible says.

Sometimes we have to choose between the government and God. When humans decide to take the lives of other innocent humans, God says, do what you can to save them.

There are at least four examples in the Bible when people disobeyed governing authorities to save the lives of innocent persons, with God's approval.

The first is found in Exodus 1:15-20. Here the Israelite midwives Shiphrah and Puah were directly ordered by the King of Egypt to kill Israelite baby boys at birth, because he feared the Israelite slaves were growing in number and would eventually overtake the Egyptians. The midwives not only disobeyed the king but also lied to him about it, because they "feared God." In response, God "was good" to them and blessed them with families of their own.

The story of the prostitute Rahab is told in Joshua 2. Joshua had sent two spies to survey the land God promised the Israelites but that still belonged to other nations. In the City of Jericho, Rahab hid the spies. She then helped them escape and lied to searchers to throw them off the trail. What was her reward? It was more than we later see in Joshua 6, when Joshua spared Rahab's life and the lives of her family. In Matthew 1:5, we see Rahab was given the honor of being an ancestor of our Lord Jesus Christ. She is also listed in Hebrews 11, a chapter listing the heroes of our faith - a hero in God's eyes who disobeyed and lied to her governing authority.

I Samuel 19 and 20 describe Michel and Jonathan spying on, sabotaging, and lying to Saul, who was not only their king but also their father, to save the life of David, an innocent man Saul was trying to kill.

Finally, Matthew 2:1-12 tells of God warning the Wise Men to directly disobey King Herod's order to tell him where the infant Jesus was. God Himself gave instructions for people to defy governmental authority to save the life of an innocent baby, the Savior of the world.

What am I getting at?

I'm not advocating anarchy. I would suggest, rather, that our country is already in a critical state of anarchy due to Christian acceptance of amorality in government. Just look at San Francisco.

There simply aren't enough Shiphrahs, Puahs, Rahabs, and Jonathans in America who defy ungodly rulers who have established ungodly laws.

There simply aren't enough Jesuses in America, who protest in righteous anger when God is defamed. If Jesus trashed a church's Las Vegas Night today, he'd be arrested and sued. Would that stop him? No.

It's time Christians got to the point of active noncooperation with abortion. Am I saying to lie, cheat, and steal to do so? That is not my place to say. We must always conduct ourselves in sinless ways. But could it be that in our keenness to comply with the laws of man, we have betrayed the laws of God?

Some of us are under the mistaken impression that Christian love always means being nice.

But while we are being nice, one child is killed by abortion every 20 seconds.

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